

# Weed Abatement Program Voted by City Council

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## The Herald

CAPITAL CITY of the GREAT SOUTHWEST

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Every Sunday and Thursday



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Only Audited Mass  
Coverage of Torrance

49th Year — No. 55

OFFICE AND PLANT, 1619 GRAMERCY AVE. — TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, JULY 12, 1962

10c Per Copy 52 PAGES

# HIT-RUN CAR KILLS TODDLER

## A Penny for your Thoughts

"Do you think President Kennedy's age has increased people's interest in his social and political life?" the Pennies photographer asked shoppers at the Del Amo Shopping Center.

Mrs. James Barry, Redondo Beach:

"I think so. I think his age has also aided in his popularity. He and his whole family appeal to the younger couples. Because of his family's appeal I think people follow such events as his trip to Mexico."

Gary Lyon, 200 Paseo De Granada:

"Possibly. I'd say his religion first attracts peoples' attention. His wife and child call the women into the picture, I guess. Some people are actually more interested in politics than the president himself."

Miss Jo Ann Gungura, 5614 Ruby Place:

"No. Actually I don't think his age has anything to do with it. I think people have become more interested in his personality because of his age, but his age doesn't have anything to do with people's interest in his political philosophies."

Mrs. Jerry Wood, 24629 Frampton, Harbor City:

"I think people are always interested in the social life of the President no matter what his age. The President is always in the spotlight. I imagine his age has contributed to his popularity."

Miss Nadine Truscott, 25042 Felijoia, Lomita:

"I think so. Because he is young, people are a bit more attentive. They pay more attention to him because he is young and they want to see if he can accomplish the job."

## For Weeds Only

### Contractor Gets Job on \$62,000 Bid

A recommendation by City Manager Wade Peebles that the city assume operation of its weed abatement program for the coming year was turned down by the City Council Tuesday night and a contract offered to P. I. Haddon Jr. (as Carbohad, Inc.) on a bid of \$62,010 for the job.

Remembering the strong protests the Council had received in past years over the heavy charges levied against some property owners for rubbish removal and general cleanup, the city limited the work in the new contract to abatement of weeds only.

One other bid, with a total price of \$68,100, was submitted by LeRoy Forsythe who told councilmen Tuesday he was not interested in the contract.

IN OTHER matters the Council denied application for a variance to operate an apartment-motel at 16640 Crenshaw Blvd.; approved a variance to the off-street parking ordinance for a commercial building at Arlington Avenue and 230th Street, and denied a damage claim filed by Mrs. Mickey Elissa for injuries in a sidewalk fall.

Councilmen also approved an application by Benbow Aero, Inc., to permit flight instruction from their airport lease. Only Councilman Victor E. Benstead opposed the matter.

IN ANOTHER airport matter, Commissioner Joe Doss reported that some of the weed and lighting problems discussed by aircraft operators before a recent meeting had been abated, and that the complaints about rocks and stones on the taxiways had been cleared up with the assignment of a city street sweeper to the airport on a regular basis.

The request of Jefferson, Inc., for authority to change their lease on the Rolling Hills Plaza Shopping Center property to permit erection of a new theater building was held up pending a report from the Airport Commission. City Attorney Stanley Remelmeyer opposed the request, saying the city should demand additional rental for such non-tax producing use of city property.

## Lomitan Drowns In Lake

An 18-year-old Lomita youth who had planned to enroll in Harbor College Monday to begin training for a career as an athletic coach, was buried Wednesday after funeral services in Lomita.

Harvey Earl Poskin, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Poskin of 1834 W. 260th St., drowned Saturday while on a church-sponsored outing to Crystal Lake in the Angeles National Forest above Azusa.

Harvey was among a group of 30 youths on the outing sponsored by the Torrance Church of God and led by the Rev. J. P. Phillips. Colleagues found him in the water unconscious near a diving raft in the lake. Efforts to revive him were unsuccessful.

A graduate of Narbonne High School, the Poskin youth had worked for a year after leaving high school and was to begin his advanced studies at Harbor College.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by two sisters, Phyllis, 22, and Sharon, 15. A grandmother, Mrs. Rose Vesterly, lives in Santa Ana.

Yesterday's services were held in the A. M. Gamby Mortuary in Lomita. Interment was in Roosevelt Memorial Park.

## Isen Asked To Debate Districts

A challenge to debate the merits of geographical councilmanic districts was issued to Mayor Albert Isen yesterday by David K. Lyman, who plugged for such districts during his recent bid for election to the City Council.

In a letter to the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, Lyman asked for a chance to discuss the issues with Mayor Isen at a Chamber breakfast meeting. He pointed out that Isen had used an earlier breakfast meeting to voice his opposition to the proposal.

IN ANNOUNCING his decision to enter the current campaign to bring about a change in the city's method of selecting members of the City Council, Lyman said:



GREIVING MOTHER . . . Mrs. William Brown (center), mother of Dorothy Gale Brown, is assisted by a mortuary attendant and an unidentified relative as she leaves chapel following funeral services for her daughter here Monday. The Rev. Ted Hicks, uncle of the slain girl, described her killer as a "hateful person, an evil person, and vengeance cries out for his capture." Following services at Stone and Myers Mortuary, the girl was buried in Roosevelt Memorial Park. Story on Page 2.

## Torrance Man, Mother In One Home 44 Years

By JERRY REYNOLDS  
Herald Staff Writer

"You can see all the changes that have taken place."

The man talking was William H. "Bill" Sykes, and he was pointing to some old photographs he had taken of the "city" to Torrance. He's seen a lot of those changes since he first came to Torrance.

Sykes came from England with his mother and father in 1911. The family moved into a section of Lomita that is now part of Torrance, and planted themselves firmly in the sand.

The elder Sykes died in 1912, just as plans for an industrial city in this area were being formulated. But in 1918, Bill and his mother bought a house from Jarred S. Torrance and moved in. They've lived there since.

## Freeway Link Opens Friday

Motorists will begin using a section of the San Diego Freeway, connecting the Long Beach and Harbor Freeways, on Friday.

Spokesmen for the state Division of Highways said official dedication of the section is set for July 19.

THE LARGE white house stands on the corner of Sonoma and Cota Streets, and it became the vantage point of a man who has watched a city grow out of barren land.

Two years before he bought the house, Bill, as he's known to his friends, went to work at the Columbia Steel plant. He quit in 1922 to try his hand in business. In 1924, Sykes returned to the Columbia Steel plant, and has worked continuously until his retirement on April 30 of this year.

AN ELECTRICIAN by trade, he became assistant chief electrician at the plant in 1942, and general foreman in 1952. He's never missed a day, and says he was "lucky enough to be in management during the strike."

SYKES AND his mother, Phoebe, who celebrated her 94th birthday in May, can claim a host of impressive firsts. They operated the first store in Torrance, and at one time were agents for all publications in the area. They have also taken THE HERALD since it began publication back in 1914.

Going through a box of old photographs, Bill pointed out many of the changes that have taken place in the years.

"I used to sit on the back porch and shoot at coyotes," he says.

THE PIONEERS spend their time today taking care of the large house and traveling. The family car averages about 2,000 miles per month, and it shows no signs of letting up.

Already they are making plans to return to their native England for a vacation next year.

Every state in the union has seen the Sykes—and Alaska and Hawaii weren't states when the Sykes visited them. All provinces in Canada, and numerous other places have played host to the travelers from Torrance.

BILL HAS other interests, too. Radio is his hobby, and he'll get plenty of use out of the two-band radio that his co-workers at the Columbia-Geneva Division of U. S. Steel gave him at a retirement party. He plans to get his ham license again — he had one of the first issued to a Torrance resident.

Photography is also a hobby, and his camera has recorded a pictorial history of the growth of Torrance.

A MEMBER of the Torrance Masonic Lodge since 1920, Bill is also a "very strong Republican." He became a citizen in 1927, and is proud of the fact that he has voted in every election since.

Mrs. Sykes still does the cooking and house work, but gets occasional help from her bachelor son. And from time to time the two get away for a few days at their ranch at Acton.

Bill is not a man to sit still, and when he's not busy with his camera or working in his radio shop, he and "Mom" hop in the car and head for some other part of the country. But they'll always return to Torrance.

## First Death Of Year on City Streets

A 19-year-old Wilmington girl was booked at Torrance jail yesterday afternoon on charges of hit-run driving, manslaughter, and possession of dangerous drugs after she allegedly admitted driving an auto which struck and killed a 3-year-old Torrance girl.

Pronounced dead at Little Company of Mary Hospital shortly after the accident yesterday was Amie Florence Swartz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rodney A. Swartz of 18832 Haas Ave.

She was struck in the street near her home by an auto allegedly driven by Linda Woods of 122 W. Lomita Blvd., Wilmington. The Woods girl was returned to the scene about an hour after the accident by the owner of the car and police said yesterday afternoon that she admitted driving the vehicle.

WITH HER at the time was a 17-year-old girl who resides at the same address in Wilmington.

Investigating officers confiscated several pills from the Woods girl and were seeking to determine their content late yesterday.

Officers said the Swartz girl was apparently crossing the street in front of 18832 Haas Ave. when the southbound auto struck her and rolled over her. Police were told that the car continued on to 190th Street and then fled eastward.

THE AREA in which the accident occurred is a 25-mile residential zone, and the Woods girls has denied speeding through the area.

Yesterday's fatality was the first registered in Torrance this year, and came on the heels of a statement issued by Chief Percy Bennett of the Torrance Police Department citing officers and motorists for the city's excellent safety record.

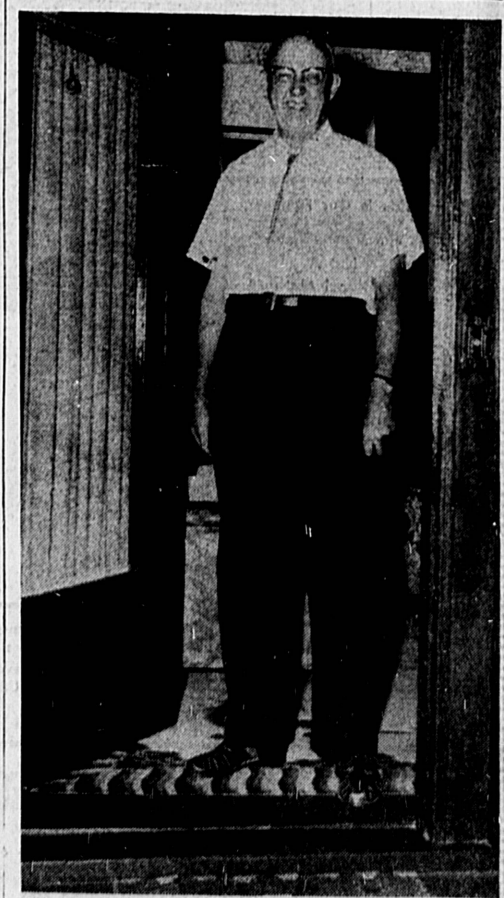
## Chief Lauds Death-Free City Record

Torrance drivers were lauded Monday by Police Chief Percy G. Bennett as the first six months of the year slipped by without a single traffic fatality.

Last year, five people died as a result of traffic accidents during the same period.

Chief Bennett credits the improved record, "not only to the traffic program of the police department, but to the citizens of our city."

"I like to give my men credit when it is due, and rest assured I am proud of every man in the department, but I also feel that you, the drivers, must share in this fine effort," Bennett adds.



COME IN . . . William H. Sykes is shown here standing in the doorway of his home on Cota. The house was purchased from Jarred S. Torrance in 1918, and Sykes and his mother have lived there since. Sykes recently retired after 33 years of continuous service at the Columbia-Geneva Division of U. S. Steel. (Herald Photo)

## PUNJABS



WAIT TILL THE SON SHINES, NELLY!

## YMCA Starts Memorial Fund for Crash Victim

Beginning with a \$100 check from the Torrance YMCA's college-age Phalanx club, the local youth organization has initiated a memorial campership fund to honor Chester Phillips III, killed July 3 in an automobile accident.

The club began the memorial fund to perpetuate the "noble actions" of Phillips, formerly the president of the organization, on behalf of local youngsters at YMCA camps.

Phillips, 19, died when his car went out of control and overturned on a desert highway near Caliente, Nev. He had been married only a week.

He served for five years on the staff of YMCA Camp Big Pines during the summer months.

Thomas Huff, advisor to the group, said that Phillips always led a noble life as an officer in the YMCA, was a thoughtful son to his parents,

and a trusted and industrious employee at the supermarket where he worked. He was a HERALD carrier for more than two years.

Huff said, "Our hope is that his fund will grow to lead many young boys to follow the example he set as a leader."

Donations to the fund may be mailed to the Torrance YMCA at 2080 Washington Ave., Torrance.

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